

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A food waste disposer, comprising:
a food conveying section;
a grinding mechanism;
a motor housing that includes a motor operably connected to the grinding mechanism; and
a discharge chamber generally surrounding the grinding mechanism, the discharge chamber having a discharge port that is tangential to a rotatable shredder plate that is rotatable by the motor.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Currently Amended) The food waste disposer of claim 2~~1~~, wherein the grind mechanism includes a stationary grind ring.
4. (Previously Presented) The food waste disposer of claim 3, wherein the shredder plate defines a horizontal plane, and wherein at least a portion of the discharge chamber is located above the plane.
5. (Currently Amended) The food waste disposer of claim 4, ~~wherein the discharge chamber defines a discharge port, and wherein at least a portion of the discharge port is located above the plane.~~
6. (Original) The food waste disposer of claim 1, wherein the discharge chamber and the grind ring define a gap therebetween.

7. (Currently Amended) The food waste disposer of claim 6,
wherein ~~the discharge chamber defines a discharge port, and wherein the gap~~
defines a cross-sectional area that increases from a first location to the discharge
port.

8. (Original) The food waste disposer of claim 21, further
comprising a plurality of lugs attached to the shredder plate.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~The food waste disposer of claim~~
~~1, A food waste disposer, comprising:~~
a food conveying section;
a grinding mechanism;
a motor housing that includes a motor operably connected to the grinding
mechanism; and
a discharge chamber generally surrounding the grinding mechanism
wherein the motor is a brushless permanent magnet (BPM) motor.

10 – 18 (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a food waste
disposer including a grinding mechanism, the grinding mechanism having a
stationary grind ring and a shredder plate that is rotatable relative to the grind
ring, the method comprising:

receiving food waste into the grinding mechanism;
rotating the shredder plate to grind the food waste against the grinding
mechanism; and
discharging the ground food waste from the grinding mechanism
tangentially to the shredder plate via a discharge chamber surrounding the
grinding mechanism and through a discharge port of the discharge chamber that
is tangential to the shredder plate.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein rotating the shredder plate includes operating a brushless permanent magnet motor having a shaft connected to the shredder plate.

21. (Previously Presented) The food waste disposer of claim 9, wherein the brushless permanent magnet (BPM) motor comprises a rotor, a shaft and a stator.

22. (Previously Presented) The food waste disposer of claim 21, wherein the rotor comprises permanent magnets.

23. (Previously Presented) The food waste disposer of claim 21, wherein the shaft has an upper end that passes through a bearing/sealing mechanism and connects to the shredder plate of the grinding mechanism.

24. (Previously Presented) The food waste disposer of claim 21, wherein the stator is formed from a plurality of laminations and comprises windings situated around a plurality of stator teeth.